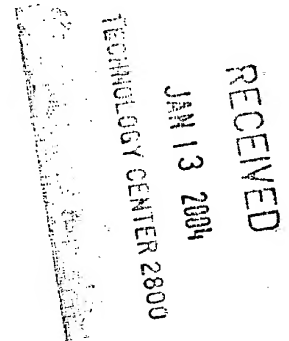


PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 07553.0021

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Toru KAWAGUCHI ) Group Art Unit: 2877  
)  
Application No.: 09/832,837 ) Examiner: Tu T. NGUYEN  
)  
Filed: April 12, 2001 )  
)  
For: SURFACE POSITION DETECTION )  
DEVICE AND EXPOSURE )  
APPARATUS AND EXPOSURE )  
METHOD ACHIEVED BY UTILIZING )  
DETECTION DEVICE )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Sir:

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

In reply to the Office Action mailed September 4, 2003, the period for response having been extended to January 4, 2004, by a request for extension of one month and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this Reply.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the claim amendments section of this Reply.

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